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## REVIEWS

RECOLLECTIONS OF GROVER CLEVELAND. By George F. Parker, A.M., LL.D. New York: The Century Co. 1909.

It has often been observed that Mr. Cleveland, throughout all his official life, was peculiarly fortunate in the quality of his advisers. His cabinets, for instance, have perhaps never been excelled. Whether this was good fortune, or the force of attraction which great men seem to have for those also great, or whether it was a certain power of wise selection also a characteristic of greatness, is not easy to say. The present work of Mr. Parker not only adds his own name to the distinguished number of those who were, during the great president's lifetime, of this fine advisory circle, but it also reveals the fact that Mr. Cleveland has been after his death perhaps quite as fortunate in his biography, as before in his advisers.

The number of great biographies is not large, because the number of elements necessary to produce such are almost infinite. Of these requirements, there are three or four absolutely necessary: the life of the one to be recorded must, of course, itself have a certain dramatic as well as historic importance; and then the writer must be something more than merely a recorder; he must have had many intimacies with his subject; he must have been an admirer, and beyond everything else he must have had that quality so well expressed by the word *sympatica*. And so the number of great biographies, in spite of the army of them published, still remains hardly more numerous than that of a company. Into that great company we feel, however, that the present work will be called, for all the qualities above mentioned as so necessary seem here to be gathered. Beyond everything, the writer held sympathetic and intimate relations with Mr. Cleveland. In many of the great events of that great life he was himself a factor.

Mr. Parker's book has the rare merit of balance and of proportion. There are few italics, and emphasis is laid always upon those parts of Mr. Cleveland's life rightly deserving it. We are aware in saying the above that the book claims to be

simply the recollections of Grover Cleveland by one man, but for the reasons given we feel that the writer has been entirely too modest. In recording his recollections he has done for Mr. Cleveland what other great biographers who have given similar recollections have done for their subjects,—he has made the future opinion of a great man secure. Indeed, we feel that the future will be surer of the greatness of Grover Cleveland than the present or past has been, and that this work will have been a large factor in such a result. We have ourselves read the work with always increasing interest. In the first place the writer has one of the clearest of English styles. In addition, there is enough of the dramatic element to carry always the reader's interest, and those who take up the work will find that they are reading an entrancing human document. The work, as we have stated, is "intime," and yet—and here appears lucently Mr. Cleveland's title to fame—when the last page has been finished, the reader has the consciousness that the time which he has spent in reading the interesting pages of this work, which we have called a human document, has been in the company of one of the world's great men. He has associated for these hours, he feels, with one who was wise, and balanced, and of noble ideals, who was a patriot and through everything a brave, patient, and good man. He has been made to see what patriotism is when patriotism must walk in the paths of peace. He may even feel that the paths of peace, as seen over and again in the career of Mr. Cleveland, are greatly more difficult for the feet of patriotism than the ways of war. If he has been encircled, as perhaps he must have been, considering the sayings and opinions of the last few years, by the atmosphere of cynicism and pessimism, and unfaith, here he will have breathed an air quite other, and thus he will close the work with the exhilarations which come from having seen men who were indeed patriots, who believed in their fellows, and who kept their ideals.

It would be impossible in so brief a review to enter into any large analysis of the body of the work. One must be content with impressions and with estimates at large; but attention should be called to the chapters which deal with the work of administration, to the campaigns for the presidency,—especially

Chapter IX, where the story of the plans for the Democratic Convention of 1892 and of how those plans were worked out so that they culminated in the desired end, is given. The story of Mr. Cleveland's political apprenticeship, of his life as a political worker, and of the training thus gained which made him acquainted with all the so-called practicalities of politics merits attention. These pages are so interesting and so dramatic, however, that one hardly requires to call attention to them. To your writer, the chapters upon the making of the cabinets,—upon some of the foreign conditions,—upon Civil Service Reform, and public patronage, and economic questions seem equally strong and valuable. The writer of this book has, however, done something which seems like a stroke of genius. He has given in adequate but brief form near the close of the work a chapter entitled "Some Opinions of Mr. Cleveland about Men," and a chapter upon his party position and association. One can hardly over-estimate the value of such chapters, together with that which contains some contributed estimates, to the future student. Men pass away, their lives are written, and in fifty or a hundred years their lives, the work, of course, in each case of one writer, is nearly all that remains. Here will be found not the opinions only of one, but of a circle of the most distinguished men of Mr. Cleveland's generation. Such a course is highly to be recommended in biography.

But if any single chapter were to be selected as likely to be quite as valuable as any in the future, we should insist upon that chapter which deals with the friendships and religion of Mr. Cleveland. A distant acquaintance with him must reveal the fact that he was a man of great friendships. One can hardly have the most casual conversation, especially in the North, with that fine body of young enthusiasts who fought in the early campaigns which made him Governor and then President, without perceiving that he had the power of winning and holding friends,—that the characteristic of fidelity was truly his. It has perhaps hitherto not been so clear that he was a man of real religion, that he had (as the writer says) ingrained religious convictions,—that he believed that this was a Christian nation,—that he showed interest in the cause of missions,—and an equal

interest in opposition to sensational preaching. The writer himself well remembers his own surprise, at the time when the President was being accused of everything but being religious, at seeing him, on the occasion of a great public dedication in New York City, when the prayer was made, assume the attitude appropriate to devotion during the prayer. In fact, on that occasion Mr. Cleveland was the only person, besides the one who offered the prayer, that showed the slightest interest or appreciation of what was being done. The words of Mr. Cleveland quoted in the book,—“The Bible is good enough for me: just the old book under which I was brought up. I do not want notes, or criticisms, or explanations about authorship or origin, or even cross-references. I do not need or understand them, and they confuse me,” must always be treasured, together with his opinion concerning the Christianity of the nation: “It would not be in existence and it could not hope to live if it were not Christian in every fibre. That is what has made it and what will save it in all its perils. Whenever we have departed from this conception of life and thought, nationality has suffered, character has declined, and difficulties have increased. . . . whenever we overlook the fact that ‘righteousness exalteth a nation,’ we must pay the penalty. I welcome peoples from every land, and of every form of faith, but I firmly believe that, as we have done in our political ideas, we shall assimilate them to our religion, by demonstrating—as Christianity at its best estate has always done—its superiority and its power. In its essentials, we stand by our faith, exercise patience, show charity, tolerate all beliefs, but always with the conviction that our own will so conquer in the end as to extend its influence, more and more, over men in every part of the world.”

We have spoken of the value of the estimates of Mr. Cleveland contributed by others than by the author, but we feel that no one of them can be held more valuable for every reason than that paragraph by Mr. Parker himself with which the book closes, and which we wish here, in closing, to quote:

“No more conscientious and patriotic man ever filled the Presidency, and the wide recognition of his character and achievements, at the time of his death, by friend and foe alike,

was but an expression of the esteem and affection in which he was always held by those who knew him best—a memory which they will cherish of a strong, brave, well-poised American, at all times ready to sacrifice personal considerations to the public welfare; rock-bound in his faith in the people, willing to abide the verdict of history as to the integrity of his purposes and the wisdom of his acts.”

It may be added, that the work contains a full chronology of Mr. Cleveland, and a valuable bibliography, and is completed by a good index.

MILO HUDSON GATES.

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THE LAST JOURNALS OF HORACE WALPOLE, DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE III FROM 1771-1783. With Notes by Dr. Doran, edited, with an Introduction, by A. Francis Steuart. 2 vols. London: John Lane. 1909.

It is fifty years since Dr. Doran edited Horace Walpole's "Last Journals," and it is therefore about time that a new edition should be brought out. The edition before us, which the publishers present in an attractive form and with some remarkably good portraits, is, however, hardly more than a reprint of the former edition. The Introduction deals merely with the question of the marriage of the Duke of Gloucester with Maria Walpole, Countess Waldegrave, Horace Walpole's niece, which though a marriage of much interest to Walpole from personal reasons and one that was of considerable importance in its day, from Court reasons, pales its ineffectual fires before an event of such magnitude as the American War and matters of such significance as the confused wrangle of political parties, which involved the future greatness of the empire. The scantiest additions, too, are made to the Notes. It would surely have been worth while to furnish a modern edition with a sound critical estimate of Walpole both as a man and as a chronicler of small talk as well as of great doings in the Court and the country. He does not shine here as a literary man, or only incidentally, as in his literary animosities, but all his sympathies and antipathies towards every person of prominence in England are pretty frankly revealed; these might form the subject of a very interesting essay.